

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 27, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The United States has always been, and continues to be, a place of refuge and sanctuary for those fleeing religious and political persecution, and other hardships. Our refugee resettlement program, designed in this spirit, provides relief and hope for people in countries plagued by conflict, and where leaders inflict terror on innocent people.

As America continues to defend freedom throughout the world during the War on Terrorism, we ask you to demonstrate our commitment through making refugee settlement an important part of our national agenda. Our refugee program shows our nation's strong commitment to freedom through providing a safe haven those persecuted for their beliefs and those who suffer under totalitarian regimes.

Those brought to freedom through our refugee program include Christians persecuted for their faith, those fleeing forced abortion and other coercive policies against women, and in many cases ethnic cleansing and genocide. In all there are an estimated 15 million refugees in the world. Some of those in the most dire situations include Burmese in Thailand, Sudanese Christians in Kenya, Sierra Leoneans and Liberians in Guinea, religious minorities in the former Soviet Union, and Iraqis in Saudi Arabia who participated in a failed U.S.-led effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Refugees from Vietnam and Cuba also continue to warrant our attention.

We respectfully ask you to make refugee settlement a priority through raising the limit on the number of refugees our nation admits to at least 100,000 a year. We urge you to ensure that the necessary funds are available for this purpose in FY 2003, and ask you to allocate sufficient funding for the Migration and Refugee Assistance program in your FY 2004 Budget request.

As you know, the refugee resettlement program has unfortunately slowed to a trickle. Just over 25,000 refugees of the authorized 70,000 for FY 2002 have arrived in the United States. This shortfall is due to bureaucratic delays associated with additional security reviews following September 11th. While it is understood that the U.S. Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have been working diligently to safeguard the admissions process, tens of thousands of refugees have been stranded overseas in places of danger or squalid refugee camps, and have not been able to find a new secure future in the United States during this past year. These unused spaces are in essence like unused lifeboats on a sinking ship.

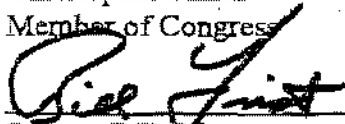
Although only a small percentage of world-wide refugees can enter the United States, raising the level we accept encourages other free nations to do the same. By supporting this expanded admissions determination, you will clearly demonstrate U.S. commitment to refugees worldwide, approximately 80 percent of whom are women and children. Those refugees who could not be rescued in FY 2002 should not suffer added hardships. By admitting at least 100,000 refugees in FY 2003, you could rescue those refugees and ensure that those who are waiting to enter the coming year are not further delayed.

Thank you for your leadership during this time in which freedom has been under attack and for considering our request to help further assist those who seek to share in America's freedom.

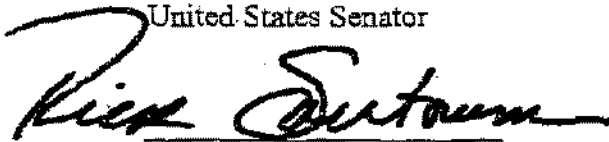
Sincerely,



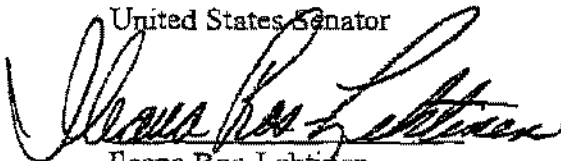
Christopher Smith  
Member of Congress



Senator Bill Krist  
United States Senator



Senator Rick Santorum  
United States Senator



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



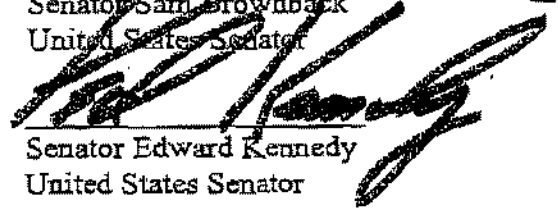
Tom Davis  
Member of Congress



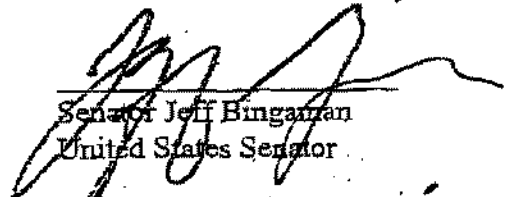
Ben Gilman  
Member of Congress



Senator Sam Brownback  
United States Senator



Senator Edward Kennedy  
United States Senator



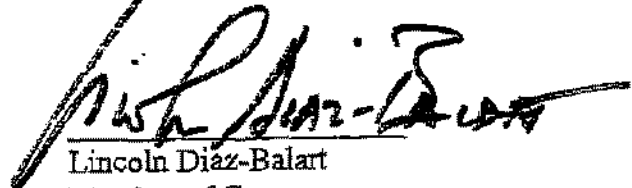
Senator Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



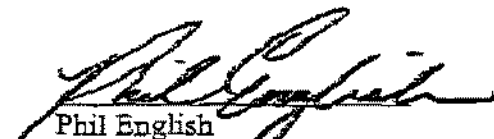
Senator Russell Feingold  
United States Senator



Senator Jon Corzine  
United States Senator

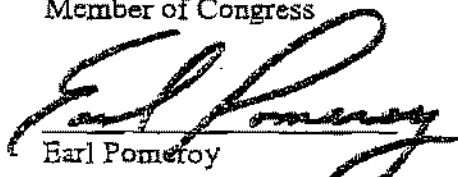



Lincoln Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

  
Phil English  
Member of Congress

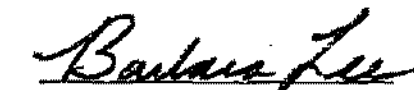
  
Connie Morella  
Member of Congress

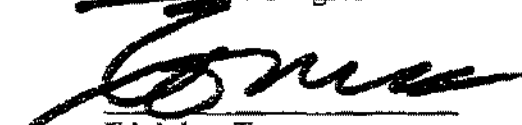
  
Donald Payne  
Member of Congress

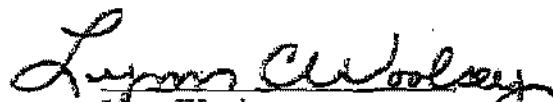
  
Earl Pomeroy  
Member of Congress


  
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress

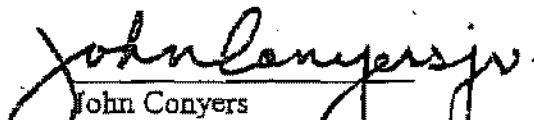
  
Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Member of Congress


  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress


  
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

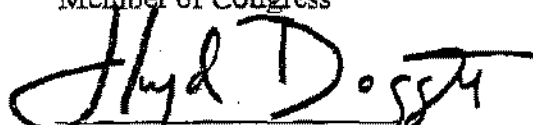
  
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress

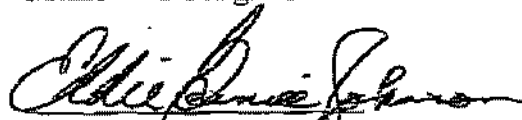
  
James McGovern  
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John Conyers  
Member of Congress

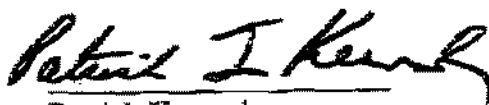
  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress


  
Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress

  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

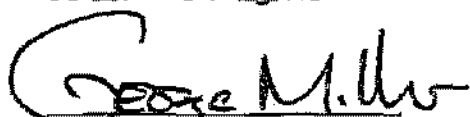
  
Sheila Jackson-Lee  
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Patrick Kennedy  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



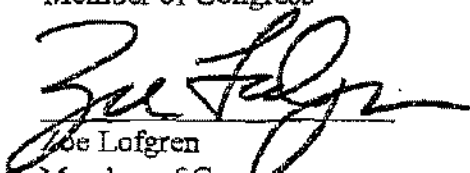
Mark Udall  
Member of Congress



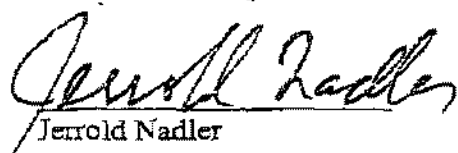
George Miller  
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



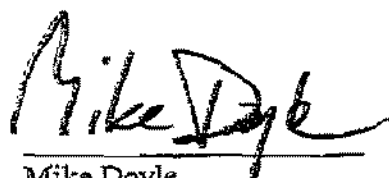
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



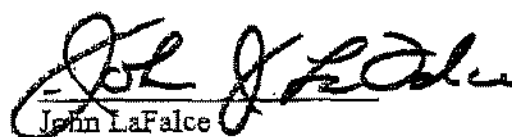
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



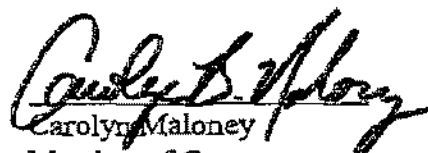
Robert Underwood  
Member of Congress



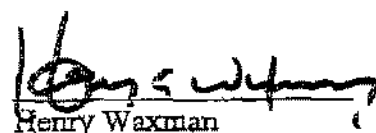
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



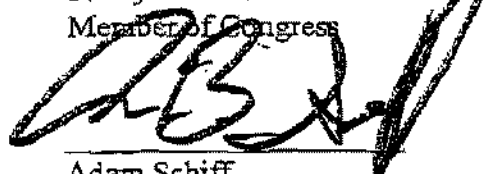
John LaFalce  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Colin Powell  
The Honorable Mitch Daniels  
The Honorable Elliot Abrams